

Reference No. 6.18

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1974

MAIN FEATURES

- * Average weekly earnings per employed male unit were \$138.00 for the September quarter 1974, an increase of \$9.50 over the figure for the June quarter. Main factors contributing to this increase were the National Wage Case (the full effect of which was felt in the September quarter) and many other large award rate increases.
- * In seasonally adjusted terms, the average was \$140.20, an increase of 11.0 per cent over the quarter, compared with increases of 6.0 per cent in the June quarter and 3.6 per cent in the March quarter 1974.
- * In the year to the September quarter 1974, seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings increased by 25.3 per cent.

Introduction

This publication presents estimates of average weekly earnings of civilian wage and salary earners. Earnings figures are shown for September quarter 1974 and for preceding quarters back to September quarter 1966, as well as for the financial years 1966-67 to 1973-74. Estimates for New South Wales and South Australia now refer to those States alone, whereas issues prior to the June quarter 1974 showed estimates for New South Wales including the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia including the Northern Territory. Data for the two Territories continue to be used in calculating estimates for Australia as a whole. Separate series for the two Territories will be included in the next issue of this publication.

Definition of earnings

2. The earnings figures used in the calculation of the averages comprise award and over-award wages and salaries, the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, bonuses and allowances, commissions, directors' fees and payments made retrospectively or in advance during the quarter. Earnings of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included.

Method of estimation

3. For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies. These returns account for approximately 90 per cent of wage and salary earners in these industries, as published monthly in the bulletin *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4). Estimates are made for the unrecorded balance in terms of both numbers and earnings. The level of average earnings estimated for the unrecorded sector is approximately 80 per cent of the level shown by the direct returns. For agriculture and private domestic service, employment and earnings are estimated from other sources and are included in the calculations.

4. For employees reported on more than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings are included in calculation of the averages.

Male units

5. Particulars of wages and salaries paid are not available for males and females separately from the sources used for this series; average weekly earnings have therefore been calculated in terms of *male units*, i.e. total male employees plus a proportion of female employees, the proportion being derived from the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings. Different ratios of female to male average earnings are used for individual States, based on information from the annual surveys of weekly earnings and hours, from a sample survey carried out in November 1969 and from other sources. Ratios used for the current quarter are as follows: New South Wales 63 per cent, Victoria 63, Queensland 59, South Australia 58, Western Australia 57 and Tasmania 61. As the number of male units used in calculating Australian average weekly earnings is the sum of the estimates for the States, a separate ratio for Australia is not used, but the weighted average of the State ratios is approximately 61.5 per cent. Changes in these ratios may be necessary from one quarter to the next to reflect, for example, the extension of equal pay provisions, or appreciable and sustained changes in the levels of male overtime earnings. However, small differences in these ratios

have relatively little effect on the earnings figures; if the ratio is understated by one per cent then average weekly earnings of \$140 would be overstated by about 60 cents.

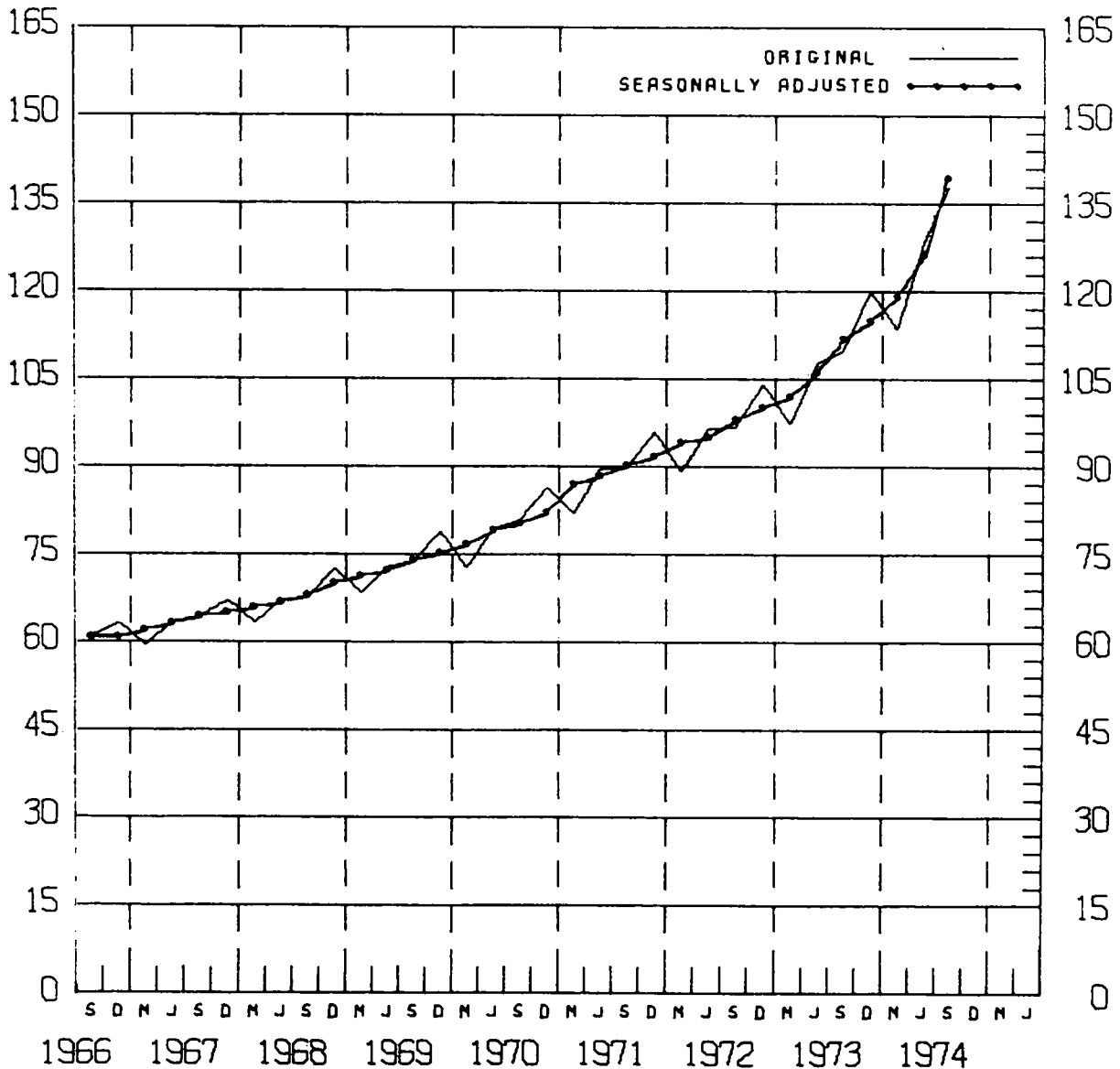
Seasonally adjusted estimates

6. Quarterly figures are affected by seasonal influences. For example, special payments, including prepayment for holiday periods, tend to raise the December quarter and to depress the March quarter averages. In addition, figures are affected by the varying number of pay-days in different quarters. Allowance for these variations, and for recurring

seasonal influences, has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates for all series shown in Table 2.

7. The seasonal adjustment factors were derived from a series from which the influence of major changes in awards and determinations and estimates of the effects of pay-day variations had first been removed. While the seasonally adjusted series retains the effect of the major award etc. changes, the pay-day effect is excluded. A detailed description of the methods of seasonal adjustment is given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1974* (Reference No. 1.10).

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) AUSTRALIA
\$



(a) For explanation see paragraph 5 on page 1.

TABLE I. - AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : ORIGINAL SERIES
\$

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia (b)
1966-67	63.30	64.10	57.30	57.30	59.40	58.50	61.90
1967-68	66.70	67.80	60.30	60.60	64.10	62.00	65.50
1968-69	72.30	72.40	64.50	64.80	69.00	65.70	70.40
1969-70	78.50	78.40	69.40	70.30	75.70	70.90	76.30
1970-71	87.30	86.40	78.00	77.20	84.90	78.50	84.80
1971-72	95.90	93.60	87.00	85.30	93.70	86.80	93.00
1972-73	104.30	102.50	97.00	93.00	99.00	94.40	101.50
1973-74	120.80	118.40	112.60	110.80	115.40	110.30	118.00
1966 -							
Sept qtr	62.20	63.50	56.40	56.90	59.30	56.70	61.10
Dec qtr	64.50	65.70	59.10	58.20	60.60	60.40	63.30
1967 -							
Mar qtr	61.00	60.90	54.70	55.60	57.70	56.80	59.50
June qtr	65.30	66.30	58.80	58.30	60.10	60.10	63.70
Sept qtr	65.10	67.00	59.20	59.80	62.40	60.30	64.40
Dec qtr	68.00	70.10	62.50	61.60	64.90	64.40	67.10
1968 -							
Mar qtr	64.80	64.60	57.50	59.10	62.50	60.20	63.20
June qtr	68.90	69.60	62.00	61.90	66.60	63.20	67.30
Sept qtr	69.50	69.80	62.00	63.20	67.10	63.00	67.80
Dec qtr	75.20	74.20	66.30	66.30	70.10	68.50	72.50
1969 -							
Mar qtr	69.70	70.60	62.10	63.40	67.40	63.60	68.50
June qtr	74.90	74.80	67.50	66.30	71.30	67.70	72.80
Sept qtr	75.80	76.30	67.80	68.60	73.50	69.00	74.10
Dec qtr	81.30	81.10	71.70	72.20	78.20	74.10	79.00
1970 -							
Mar qtr	74.70	74.60	66.10	67.40	72.90	66.30	72.70
June qtr	82.00	81.40	72.10	72.80	78.20	74.30	79.40
Sept qtr	83.10	82.40	74.20	75.30	80.70	74.40	80.90
Dec qtr	89.40	87.80	79.30	77.30	85.90	80.40	86.30
1971 -							
Mar qtr	84.40	83.70	75.90	75.40	82.90	74.60	82.00
June qtr	92.40	91.50	82.70	80.90	90.00	84.70	89.80
Sept qtr	92.20	91.30	83.10	83.70	92.90	82.10	90.00
Dec qtr	99.20	96.60	89.30	87.20	96.30	90.00	96.00
1972 -							
Mar qtr	92.30	88.90	84.00	82.00	91.00	83.70	89.20
June qtr	99.70	97.40	91.40	88.20	94.40	91.30	96.70
Sept qtr	98.80	99.00	92.60	88.20	95.30	90.30	96.80
Dec qtr	107.40	105.50	98.70	94.70	99.30	98.80	104.10
1973 -							
Mar qtr	100.10	97.50	92.90	89.80	96.40	87.60	97.20
June qtr	110.90	107.90	103.50	99.10	104.90	100.90	107.80
Sept qtr	111.90	112.50	104.40	103.70	108.70	101.70	110.20
Dec qtr	123.00	120.90	114.10	110.90	115.00	116.10	119.90
1974 -							
Mar qtr	116.70	112.50	108.00	106.60	111.80	101.50	113.30
June qtr	131.60	127.80	123.70	121.90	126.10	r(c)120.40	128.50
Sept qtr	141.10	138.70	132.50	131.00	135.50	126.40	138.00

(a) See explanation in paragraph 5 on page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) The main component of this revision is a change in the male equivalent ratio used, from 58 to 60 (see paragraph 5 on page 1). r - revised.

TABLE 2. - AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES (b)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia (c)	Quarterly change (d)	Annual change (e)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
1966 -									
Sept qtr	62.30	63.20	56.40	56.20	58.70	56.90	61.00	+4.1	+6.3
Dec qtr	62.40	63.40	57.00	56.70	59.00	58.20	60.90	-0.2	+5.7
1967 -									
Mar qtr	63.80	64.60	57.50	57.80	59.90	59.20	62.10	+2.0	+6.7
June qtr	64.60	65.40	58.10	58.30	60.00	59.30	63.30	+1.9	+8.0
Sept qtr	65.60	67.00	59.60	59.60	62.20	61.10	64.50	+1.9	+5.7
Dec qtr	65.70	67.60	60.10	60.10	63.40	61.70	65.10	+0.9	+6.9
1968 -									
Mar qtr	67.30	67.80	60.50	61.10	64.60	62.90	66.10	+1.5	+6.4
June qtr	68.40	68.80	61.10	62.00	66.40	62.70	67.00	+1.4	+5.8
Sept qtr	69.80	69.80	62.40	62.70	66.70	63.70	68.00	+1.5	+5.4
Dec qtr	72.50	71.70	63.60	64.50	68.50	64.90	70.20	+3.2	+7.8
1969 -									
Mar qtr	73.00	74.60	65.70	66.10	69.90	67.70	71.50	+1.9	+8.2
June qtr	74.30	74.10	66.70	66.30	71.10	67.30	72.30	+1.1	+7.9
Sept qtr	75.90	76.00	67.70	67.90	73.20	68.60	74.00	+2.4	+8.8
Dec qtr	77.60	77.20	68.50	69.50	75.70	69.40	75.40	+1.9	+7.4
1970 -									
Mar qtr	79.10	79.90	70.30	71.00	76.30	71.50	76.80	+1.9	+7.4
June qtr	81.50	80.60	71.60	72.90	78.30	73.40	79.10	+3.0	+9.4
Sept qtr	82.90	81.70	73.70	73.90	79.70	74.40	80.40	+1.6	+8.6
Dec qtr	84.80	83.80	75.80	74.60	82.70	76.30	82.20	+2.2	+9.0
1971 -									
Mar qtr	89.80	89.30	80.80	79.30	87.30	79.60	87.00	+5.8	+13.3
June qtr	91.10	90.00	81.60	80.50	89.50	82.60	88.60	+1.8	+12.0
Sept qtr	92.80	91.30	82.90	83.10	92.00	83.80	90.20	+1.8	+12.2
Dec qtr	94.60	92.50	85.40	83.80	93.10	84.70	91.70	+1.7	+11.6
1972 -									
Mar qtr	96.40	93.50	88.00	85.40	94.30	89.00	94.10	+2.6	+8.2
June qtr	98.10	96.00	90.10	87.20	93.40	89.20	95.20	+1.2	+7.4
Sept qtr	100.70	99.50	93.40	88.60	95.50	92.60	98.00	+2.9	+8.6
Dec qtr	102.70	101.20	95.00	91.90	97.10	93.30	100.10	+2.1	+9.2
1973 -									
Mar qtr	105.60	103.40	98.10	94.00	100.00	94.00	102.00	+1.9	+8.4
June qtr	108.80	106.50	101.90	r98.10	104.00	98.30	106.30	+4.2	+11.7
Sept qtr	114.10	113.10	104.90	104.20	109.10	103.90	111.90	+5.3	+14.2
Dec qtr	117.60	115.80	110.10	107.10	111.90	109.90	115.00	+2.8	+14.9
1974 -									
Mar qtr	123.10	119.40	113.70	112.10	116.70	108.80	119.10	+3.6	+16.8
June qtr	128.90	125.90	122.50	120.50	125.10	r(f)117.60	126.30	+6.0	+18.8
Sept qtr	144.00	139.80	133.10	131.20	135.20	129.60	140.20	+11.0	+25.3

(a) See explanation in paragraph 5 on page 1. (b) See paragraph 6 on page 2. (c) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Percentage change over previous quarter in series for Australia. (e) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in series for Australia. (f) The main component of this revision is a change in the male equivalent ratio used, from 58 to 60 (see paragraph 5 on page 1.).
r - revised.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr A.N. Gray on 63 9111 extension 2350 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.